
FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 1.25.2010

Wall Street Journal: "Financial Revamp Hits Opposition ... The Obama administration's decision to infuse its overhaul of financial regulations with a populist appeal has run into a wall of Republican senators who believe they can reshape the proposal or potentially scuttle it altogether."

Wall Street Journal: "AIG Analysis Reveals Bank Discussions ... Internal documents provided to Congress shed further light on how the Federal Reserve Bank of New York approached its unsuccessful and now controversial negotiations with large U.S. and European banks for concessions in the bailout of American International Group Inc."

Wall Street Journal: "Financial-Crisis Commission Aims to Use Subpoena Power ... The special commission probing the causes of the financial crisis intends to use subpoena powers to get information it wants from banks and government agencies as it focuses on the role of pay, subprime lending, securitization practices and other issues in the market meltdown, the head of the commission said."

Wall Street Journal: "The Bernanke Nomination ... The White House said yesterday it has damped down a political revolt against Ben Bernanke and now has the votes to secure the Federal Reserve Chairman's second four-year term. Whether or not Mr. Bernanke is confirmed, the lesson we draw is that overly political central bankers will eventually be undone by politics."

Wall Street Journal: "The President's Bank Reforms Don't Add Up ... After the Democrats' disaster in Massachusetts last Tuesday, President Obama appears to be flailing."

Washington Post: "Stakes are high as government plans exit from mortgage markets ... For more than a year, the government pulled out the stops to revive home buying by driving down mortgage rates."

Washington Post: "Populist ire softens ahead of Bernanke confirmation vote ... The outlook for Ben S. Bernanke's confirmation to a second term as Federal Reserve chairman brightened over the weekend, as the Obama administration and key senators expressed confidence in his prospects."

Washington Post: "A trillion-dollar effort ... The Obama administration and the Federal Reserve are winding down their efforts to keep mortgage rates at historic lows. Here are some of the tools they used:"

NY Times: "Restarting Financial Reform ... In calling for new limits on the size and activities of big banks, President Obama has given the effort to enact serious financial regulatory reform something it lacked: a rational starting point."

NY Times: "The Bernanke Conundrum ... A Republican won in Massachusetts - and suddenly it's not clear whether the Senate will confirm Ben Bernanke for a second term as Federal Reserve chairman."

LA Times: "Obama critics say his economic vision is hazy ... With congressional support eroding, his popularity falling and his renomination of Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke potentially in trouble, President Obama faces an even more daunting task to save his entire domestic agenda -- convincing millions of angry Americans that his economic policies will bring them a brighter future."

LA Times: "E-mails on AIG bailout detail Fed's push for secrecy ... U.S. securities regulators originally treated the New York Federal Reserve's bid to keep secret many of the details of the American International Group bailout like a request to protect matters of national security, according to e-mails obtained by Reuters."

LA Times: "Managing Wall Street meltdowns ... How many initiatives can President Obama justify by pointing to the public's outrage over excessive bank bonuses? Last week the administration called on Congress to tax big banks, insurance companies and brokers to recoup what taxpayers spent bailing out the financial markets."

USA Today: "Rep. Barney Frank calls for abolishing Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac ... A top lawmaker on Capitol Hill is calling for the elimination of mortgage finance companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the establishment of a new system to provide money for U.S. home loans."

The Washington Times: "EDITORIAL: Obama's demonization of banks ... President Obama has decided to take on the banking industry with the most intrusive regulatory and tax package since the New Deal of the 1930s."

Politico: "Timothy Geithner warns of Ben Bernanke fallout ... Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner warned that the financial markets would view a Senate rejection of Ben Bernanke's renomination as "very troubling" but said he's sure the embattled Federal Reserve chairman will prevail.